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## **Table of Contents**

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### **FRUITS, NUTS AND VEGETABLES**

Production and Value of Production

    Graphs, 1997-2004

Highlights--2004 Crop Year

Fruit Crops, State Estimates, 1997-2004

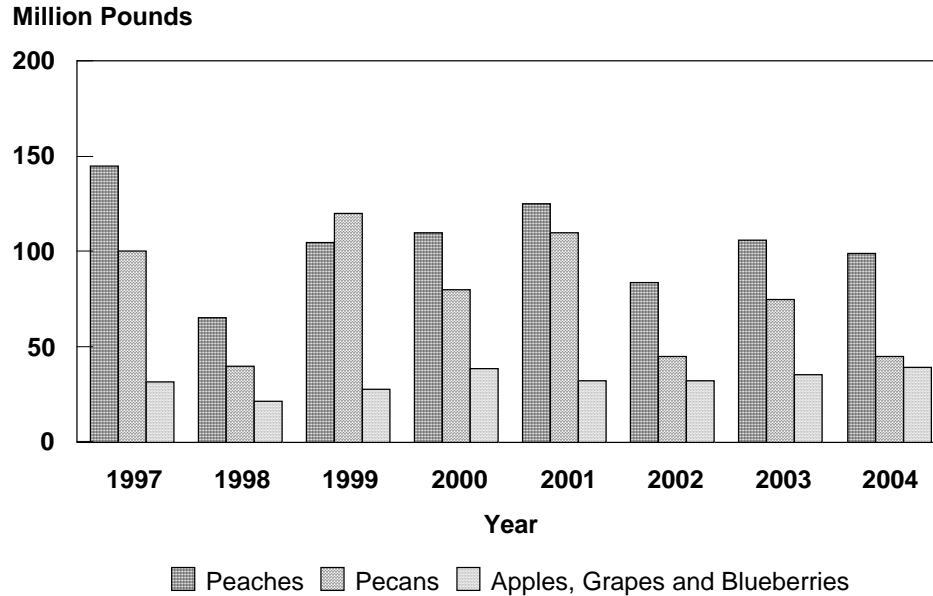
Pecans, State Estimates, 1997-2004

Vegetables, State Estimates, 1997-2004

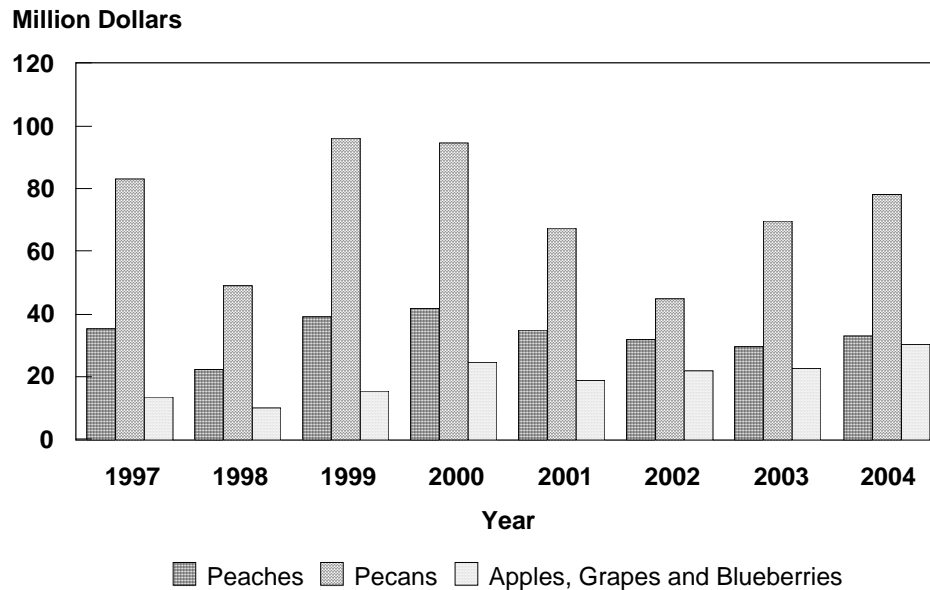


# FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

**FRUIT AND NUTS**  
**Utilized Production**  
Georgia, 1997 - 2004



**FRUIT AND NUTS**  
**Value of Utilized Production**  
Georgia, 1997 - 2004



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# FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

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## HIGHLIGHTS - 2004 CROP YEAR

The value of production of most of Georgia's fruit, nut and vegetable crops in 2004 increased over the previous year. Ten of the fifteen crops in the estimating program gained in value from 2003, despite a decline in production for nine of those crops. Price improvements for cantaloupes, cucumbers, apples, peaches and pecans more than offset a decline in production to raise the value above the previous year. Apples' value of production doubled 2003, despite a 7 percent decline in production. Apple prices rebounded from the previous year to average \$.228 per pound, a 115 percent increase. Cabbage production nearly doubled the low output of 2003, to attain the second largest percentage increase in value. Because of the production increase, cabbage prices declined slightly to \$11.00 per hundredweight (cwt.), compared with \$12.00 in 2004. Conversely, bell peppers' production in 2004 fell to less than half of the large crop of 2003. Value of production dropped to \$19.9 million, only 49 percent of the previous year as prices remained unchanged at \$30.00 per cwt.

Onions continued as the most valuable vegetable crop, at \$88.6 million, an increase of 18 percent from 2003 and the highest value since 1997. Pecans remained the number one fruit and nut crop in 2004 with a value of \$78.1 million, up 12 percent from 2003. Sweet corn value of production amounted to nearly \$46.7 and the second most valuable vegetable crop in 2004.

### ONIONS

Onion production in 2004 totaled a record 3.77 million cwt., 72 percent above 2003 and 8 percent more than the previous high in 1997. This record production resulted from a 16 percent increase in acres harvested and a record yield per acre. Harvested acres numbered 14,500, the highest since 1999. Yield averaged 260 cwt. per acre, compared with the previous record of 255 cwt. in 2000. Because of the high production, prices fell to \$23.50 per cwt., just two-thirds of the 2003 price and the lowest average since 1994.

### PECANS

Georgia's pecan production totaled 45 million pounds for 2004, only 60 percent of the 75 million pounds produced in 2003. In the alternate bearing cycle for pecans, 2004 was considered the "off year" for production and three tropical storms in September reduced production even further. Above normal rainfall and wet conditions slowed harvest in November, but drier conditions in December and the short crop allowed producers to finish ahead of normal. Seedling varieties totaled only three million pounds, 20 percent of the production in 2003. Improved varieties amounted to 42 million pounds, 30 percent less than the 60 million pounds produced in 2003. Georgia continued as the leading pecan producing state, with 24 percent of the Nation's production in 2004. Texas remained in second place with 40 million pounds in 2004. Because of the third consecutive year of sub par production, prices reached record levels in Georgia and the U.S. Georgia prices averaged \$1.73 per pound, 23 cents above the previous high in 1992.

## PEACHES

Georgia's peach production in 2004 totaled 52,500 tons, 5 percent less than the 55,000 tons produced in 2003. Utilized production, the amount sold plus the quantities used at home or held in storage, dropped 7 percent to 49,500 tons. After a dry, early spring, showers in June and July helped fruit to size. The rain and humid conditions hindered spray schedules and diseases were common. Freeze damage, however, was limited to the extreme southern part of the State. Georgia's total production in 2004 ranked third to California and South Carolina's production. Because of the lower production, prices improved to \$667 per ton, an increase of 19 percent from 2003's average of \$559 per ton. This price improvement allowed the value of production to increase by 11 percent from 2003 to \$33.0 million. Beginning with the 2002 estimates, production was changed from pounds to tons.

## TOMATOES

Tomato production in 2004 totaled 986 thousand cwt., only 64 percent of the 1.53 million cwt. produced in 2003. Heavy rains and high winds from tropical storms reduced yields to half of those in 2003 and the lowest since 1988. Tomato yields averaged 170 cwt. in 2004, compared with 340 cwt. per acre for 2003. Acres harvested actually increased from the previous year, at 5,800, a jump of 29 percent. Planted area totaled 6,000 acres, a gain of 700 acres from 2003. Prices also improved from 2003 because of the low production, averaging \$45.00 per cwt. This was a 43 percent increase from 2003. The value of production fell to \$44.4 million, 8 percent below a year earlier. However, tomatoes were still the third most valuable vegetable crop in Georgia in 2004.

## SWEET CORN

Production of sweet corn totaled 3.65 million cwt. in 2004, 30 percent more than a year earlier and the third highest in the country. This improved production was attributed to a 35 percent increase in harvested acres to 27,000. Planted acres amounted to 28,000 in 2004, up 2,000 acres from the previous year. Yield per harvested acre averaged 135 cwt., compared with 140 in 2003. Higher fall prices were not enough to offset the low prices in the spring and averaged \$12.80 per cwt. for the year. This was 22 percent below 2003's record average price of \$16.50 per cwt. Value of production reached \$46.7 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

## WATERMELONS

Production of watermelons in Georgia plunged to 3.80 million cwt., 29 percent less than 2003 and the lowest output since 1992. Although planted acreage climbed 13 percent to 30,000, harvested acres fell to 23,000, 8 percent below the previous year. Yield also decline to 165 cwt. per acre, down 23 percent from 2003. Prices adjusted somewhat after the record in 2003 to average \$7.00 per cwt., still the second highest ever. As a result, value of production fell 37 percent from a year earlier to \$26.6 million.

# FRUIT CROPS--Acreage, Yield, Production, Price, and Value, Georgia, 1997-2004

	Unit	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Apples</b>									
Bearing Age Acres <sup>1/</sup>		1,400	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Yield per Acre <sup>2/</sup>	Lbs	10,700	7,860	9,230	11,700	7,500	8,330	10,800	10,000
Total Production	Mil Lbs	15.0	11.0	12.0	14.0	9.0	10.0	13.0	12.0
Utilized Production	Mil Lbs	14.0	8.0	11.0	13.0	8.9	9.9	12.9	12.0
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	13.7	16.1	17.4	18.8	23.0	18.0	10.6	22.8
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	1,922	1,289	1,919	2,443	2,051	1,779	1,368	2,740
<b>Blueberries</b>									
Harvested Acres		4,000	4,400	4,400	4,600	4,600	4,500	4,500	4,800
Yield per Acre <sup>3/</sup>	Lbs	3,250	1,700	2,500	4,130	3,700	3,780	3,780	4,380
Total Production	Mil Lbs	14.0	9.0	12.0	20.0	18.0	17.0	17.0	21.0
Utilized Production	Mil Lbs	13.0	7.5	11.0	19.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	21.0
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	71.8	77.0	91.6	97.1	79.7	102.0	111.0	113.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	9,330	5,775	10,080	18,450	13,550	17,420	18,790	23,770
<b>Grapes</b>									
Bearing Age Acres <sup>1/</sup>		1,200	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Yield per Acre <sup>2/</sup>	Tons	2.17	2.29	2.75	2.92	2.91	2.55	2.82	3.00
Total Production	Tons	2,600	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,200	2,800	3,100	3,300
Utilized Production	Tons	2,300	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,200	2,760	2,800	3,200
Season Average Price	\$ per Ton	933	1,110	1,170	1,230	1,050	1,060	978	1,160
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	2,147	3,210	3,500	3,920	3,370	2,936	2,738	3,724
<b>Peaches</b>									
Bearing Age Acres <sup>1/</sup>		20,000	20,000	18,000	16,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Yield per Acre <sup>2/ 4/</sup>	Lbs	8,000	3,500	6,110	7,190	10,000	3.75	4.58	4.38
Total Production <sup>4/</sup>	Mil Lbs	160.0	70.0	110.0	115.0	140.0	45,000	55,000	52,500
Utilized Production <sup>4/</sup>	Mil Lbs	145.0	65.0	105.0	110.0	125.0	42,000	53,000	49,500
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	24.3	34.5	37.3	37.9	28.0	766	559	667
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	35,235	22,440	39,171	41,703	35,033	32,148	29,642	33,017

1/ Bearing acreage estimates are primarily based on periodic orchard surveys. In non-survey years, acreage is based on trends, County Extension Service data, end of year production surveys, and other indications. 2/ Yield is based on total production which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions. 3/ Yield is based on utilized production. 4/ Beginning 2002 production in tons, yield in tons per acre, price in dollars per ton.

## PECANS--Utilized Production, Price, and Value, Georgia, 1997-2004

	Unit	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Improved Pecans</b>									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	77,000	35,000	85,000	65,000	85,000	42,000	60,000	42,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	90.4	124.0	89.0	123.0	66.0	102.0	100.0	177.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	69,608	43,400	75,650	79,950	56,100	42,840	60,000	73,340
<b>Seedling Pecans</b>									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	23,000	5,000	35,000	15,000	25,000	3,000	15,000	3,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	59.1	111.0	59.0	98.0	45.0	68.0	64.0	124.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	13,593	5,550	20,650	14,700	11,250	2,040	9,600	3,720
<b>All Pecans</b>									
Utilized Production	1,000 Lbs	100,000	40,000	120,000	80,000	110,000	45,000	75,000	45,000
Season Average Price	¢ per Lb	83.2	122.0	80.3	118.0	61.2	100.0	92.8	173.0
Value of Utilized Production	1,000 Dols	83,201	48,950	96,300	94,650	67,350	44,880	69,600	78,060

# FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES--Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Georgia, 1997-2004

	Unit	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Beans, Snap</b>									
Planted	Acres	13,000	13,000	16,000	16,000	17,000	18,500	18,000	20,000
Harvested	Acres	12,000	12,000	14,500	15,500	16,500	17,000	16,000	17,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	44	52	41	56	60	43	50	53
Production	1,000 Cwt	528	624	595	868	990	731	800	901
Price per Cwt	Dollars	30.00	28.00	32.00	34.00	22.00	32.00	40.00	28.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	15,840	17,472	19,040	29,512	21,780	23,392	32,000	25,228
<b>Cabbage</b>									
Planted	Acres	8,100	8,500	8,400	8,500	9,400	11,500	11,400	12,000
Harvested	Acres	8,000	7,500	8,100	7,600	9,000	10,000	9,800	10,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	350	330	280	350	300	295	130	250
Production	1,000 Cwt	2,800	2,475	2,268	2,660	2,700	2,950	1,274	2,500
Price per Cwt	Dollars	8.00	8.30	8.80	10.00	8.70	13.00	12.00	11.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	22,400	20,543	19,958	26,600	23,490	38,350	15,288	27,500
<b>Cantaloups</b>									
Planted	Acres	4,800	5,500	6,800	6,800	5,900	5,700	6,100	7,200
Harvested	Acres	4,100	5,000	6,500	5,500	5,300	5,500	6,000	6,600
Yield per Acre	Cwt	140	120	170	165	160	220	215	150
Production	1,000 Cwt	574	600	1,105	908	848	1,210	1,290	990
Price per Cwt	Dollars	11.70	16.80	13.40	8.50	12.00	15.00	12.50	19.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	6,716	10,080	14,807	7,718	10,176	18,150	16,125	18,810
<b>Carrots<sup>1/2/</sup></b>									
Planted	Acres				4,000	3,600	2,600		
Harvested	Acres				3,200	3,500	2,500		
Yield per Acre	Cwt				180	290	300		
Production	1,000 Cwt				576	1,015	750		
Price per Cwt	Dollars				11.50	12.00	12.00		
Value of Production	1,000 Dols				6,624	12,180	9,000		
<b>Corn, Sweet</b>									
Planted	Acres	19,000	19,000	22,000	23,000	25,500	26,000	26,000	28,000
Harvested	Acres	18,000	18,000	21,000	21,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	27,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	130	150	180	160	130	125	140	135
Production	1,000 Cwt	2,340	2,700	3,780	3,360	3,250	3,125	2,800	3,645
Price per Cwt	Dollars	10.70	12.90	14.00	12.50	14.60	14.00	16.50	12.80
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	25,038	34,830	52,920	42,000	47,450	43,750	46,200	46,656
<b>Cucumbers</b>									
Planted	Acres	13,500	14,000	15,000	12,000	13,600	14,300	13,000	15,000
Harvested	Acres	13,000	13,000	14,000	11,000	13,000	13,000	12,500	14,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	170	200	190	160	175	200	170	140
Production	1,000 Cwt	2,210	2,600	2,660	1,760	2,275	2,600	2,125	1,960
Price per Cwt	Dollars	12.20	13.90	12.00	13.00	12.80	11.30	10.60	16.60
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	26,962	36,140	31,920	22,880	29,120	29,380	22,525	32,536
<b>Onions, Spring</b>									
Planted	Acres	16,200	15,000	16,000	15,000	14,500	14,700	14,000	16,500
Harvested	Acres	15,800	13,900	14,500	12,400	13,500	11,500	12,500	14,500
Yield per Acre	Cwt	220	160	190	255	190	125	175	260
Production	1,000 Cwt	3,476	2,224	2,755	3,162	2,565	1,438	2,188	3,770
Price per Cwt	Dollars	25.60	30.90	27.10	26.00	27.50	32.20	34.30	23.50
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	88,986	68,722	74,661	82,212	70,538	46,304	75,048	88,595

1/ Estimates began in 2000. 2/ 2003 and 2004 data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES--Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Georgia, 1997-2004**

	Unit	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Peppers, Bell<sup>1/</sup></b>									
Planted	Acres				5,200	4,200	4,600	4,800	4,000
Harvested	Acres				5,000	4,000	4,400	4,500	3,900
Yield per Acre	Cwt				170	200	200	300	170
Production	1,000 Cwt				850	800	880	1,350	663
Price per Cwt	Dollars				26.60	28.00	20.00	30.00	30.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols				22,610	22,400	17,600	40,500	19,890
<b>Squash<sup>1/</sup></b>									
Planted	Acres				12,000	9,000	9,100	10,000	12,000
Harvested	Acres				10,500	7,900	8,600	9,500	10,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt				220	125	165	130	115
Production	1,000 Cwt				2,310	988	1,428	1,244	1,150
Price per Cwt	Dollars				24.80	21.20	31.00	28.00	29.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols				57,199	20,990	44,268	34,832	33,350
<b>Tomatoes</b>									
Planted	Acres	3,600	3,600	3,800	4,000	4,900	5,700	5,300	6,000
Harvested	Acres	3,500	3,500	3,700	3,900	4,700	5,500	4,500	5,800
Yield per Acre	Cwt	420	260	300	350	365	300	340	170
Production	1,000 Cwt	1,470	910	1,110	1,365	1,716	1,650	1,530	986
Price per Cwt	Dollars	25.70	31.50	26.60	24.50	25.00	20.00	31.50	45.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	37,779	28,665	29,526	33,443	42,900	33,000	48,195	44,370
<b>Watermelons</b>									
Planted	Acres	27,000	27,000	28,000	28,000	24,000	24,700	26,500	30,000
Harvested	Acres	25,000	23,000	25,000	24,000	22,000	23,000	25,000	23,000
Yield per Acre	Cwt	210	220	195	195	265	255	215	165
Production	1,000 Cwt	5,250	5,060	4,875	4,680	5,830	5,865	5,375	3,795
Price per Cwt	Dollars	5.50	5.00	5.00	4.60	5.00	5.80	7.80	7.00
Value of Production	1,000 Dols	28,875	25,300	24,375	21,528	29,150	34,017	41,925	26,565

1/ Estimates began in 2000.